

MR. COCHRAN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. COCHRAN and Mr. HUTCHINSON pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 169 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, earlier this week I introduced the Hutchinson-Lincoln Wetlands Reserve Program Enhancement Act to help strengthen the popular Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Simply put, this legislation will act to strengthen the current WRP which provides financial incentives to farmers and private landowners who voluntarily set aside marginal lands and restore them to optimal wetland wildlife habitat.

These restored wildlife areas are some of the best wildlife conservation habitat in America and are critical to the future of waterfowl throughout our Nation. Established by the 1990 farm bill as a long-term conservation option for farmers, the WRP protects farm wetlands using 10-year, 30-year, and permanent easements. Land which is eligible for WRP is characterized by wetlands that are farmed, lands adjacent to protected wetlands, and croplands and pastures which are naturally prone to flooding.

If eligible, the landowner voluntarily limits the use of the lands while retaining private ownership and access to the land. In addition, they may also lease the land for hunting, fishing, and other undeveloped recreational activities. The NRCS, in conjunction with the landowner, then develops a plan for the restoration and the maintenance of the wetland.

Once restored, wetlands act to: No. 1, improve water quality by filtering sediments; No. 2, reduce flooding; No. 3, recharge ground water; No. 4, promote biological diversity; and No. 5, furnish educational, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. These benefits, as a result of the WRP, have helped landowners throughout the 46 States where farmers have currently enrolled in what has become a very successful program.

At the local level, I want to mention three farmers in Arkansas who are benefiting from the WRP. Hattie Neely of Moro, AR, in Lee County, grows soybeans and has enrolled 31 acres in this very important program. Then there is Donald Wallace of Gillett, AR, in Arkansas County, who grows soybeans, and he has enrolled 30 acres in the WRP. And Dick Carmichael of Monticello, AR, in Drew County, grows soybeans and rice and has enrolled 115 acres in the WRP.

In each case, these farmers are using the WRP to restore bottom land hardwood forests and a natural wildlife habitat. Other farmers in Arkansas are using WRP to retire agricultural lands

unsuited for crop production because of elevated levels of salt from irrigation water. In this case, WRP lands filter runoffs, keeping salts and sediments in the wetlands and out of the natural waterways.

Despite the benefits to farmers across America, the WRP will soon become a victim of its own success. The current WRP is authorized to enroll up to 975,000 acres nationally through the year 2002. WRP is in such high demand from America's farmers that it will reach its acreage cap next year. The top 10 States—Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, California, Missouri, Iowa, Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, and Illinois—have a combined enrollment of almost 427,000 acres in these States alone.

In response to the success of WRP, my bill seeks to expand the acreage cap from the proposed 180,000 acres in fiscal year 2000 to a newly authorized maximum of 250,000 acres per year through the year 2005. This will help to ensure that farmers who want to enroll in the program will have the option to do so.

There is no doubt that the American farmer faces an industry that is in crisis. In the race to find solutions for the many challenges facing farmers, I want to ensure that my colleagues in the Senate do not overlook the importance of conservation to family farmers, both as a way to protect valuable wildlife resources and as a source of additional income.

In the Mississippi Delta, family farmers are using the WRP to move frequently flooded farmland away from high-risk, high-cost farming back to original hardwood timberlands.

Mr. President, I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of family farmers who care about protecting the natural resources with which they are entrusted. I ask my colleagues to consider the importance of wildlife conservation in the life of family farmers. Join me in the support of what I think is very good, very important, bipartisan conservation legislation.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Berry, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2587. An act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. DICKS of Washington.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law

93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House as Members of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendments to the bill (S. 900) to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes, disagreed to by the Senate, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of the Senate bill, and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. LEACH, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. LAFALCE, and Mr. VENTO.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of titles I, III (except section 304) IV, and VII of the Senate bill, and title I of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. WATERS, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of title V of the Senate bill, and title II of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of title II of the Senate bill, and title III of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of title VI of the Senate bill, and title IV of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. WATERS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. BENTSEN.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of section 304 of the Senate bill, and title V of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. FRANKS of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. ACKERMAN.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of the Senate bill, and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr.

BLILEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. COX, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mrs. CAPPS. Provided, That Mr. RUSH is appointed in lieu of Mrs. CAPPS for consideration of section 316 of the Senate bill.

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of title V of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. COMBEST, Mr. EWING, and Mr. STENHOLM.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 104(a), 104(d)(3), and 104(f)(2) of the Senate bill, and sections 104(a)(3), 104(b)(3)(A), 104(b)(4)(B), 136(b), 136(d)-(e), 141-44, 197, 301, and 306 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HYDE, Mr. GEKAS, and Mr. CONYERS.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1501) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HYDE, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. LOFGREN.

Provided, That Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas is appointed in lieu of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

Provided further, That Mr. MEEHAN is appointed in lieu of Mr. BERMAN for consideration of sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI, and IX of the Senate amendment.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment (except sections 741, 1501, 1505, 1534-35, and titles V, VI, and IX), and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. PETRI, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of sections 1365 and 1401-03 of the House bill, and sections 1504, 1515, and 1523 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY and Mr. DINGELL.

Provided, That Mr. BILIRAKIS is appointed for consideration of section 1365 of the House bill and section 1523 of the Senate amendment.

Provided further, That Mr. TAUZIN is appointed for consideration of sections 1401-03 of the House bill and sections 1504 and 1515 of the Senate amendment.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4448. A communication from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List Nine Evolutionary Significant Units of Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), as Threatened or Endangered", received July 28, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4449. A communication from the Chair, National Women's Business Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The 1999 NWBC Best Practices Guide: Contracting with Women"; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-4450. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to vouchers for extremely low-income elderly families; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4451. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to technical and conforming amendments necessitated by passage of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4452. A communication from the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the security of dams, facilities and resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4453. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation: Contractor Performance Evaluation" (FRL #6409-6), received July 27, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4454. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Index Reporting" (FRL #6409-7), received July 27, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4455. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Washington" (FRL #6408-6), received July 27, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4456. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OMB Approvals Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Technical Amendment" (FRL #6409-2), received July 27, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4457. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the resignation of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, and the designation of an Acting Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4458. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the resignation of the Under Secretary for Technology, and the designation of an Under Secretary; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4459. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the resignation of the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4460. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to cigarette labeling and advertising for 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4461. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Saab Model SAAB 2000 Series Airplanes; request for Comments; Docket No. 98-NM-350 (7-22/7-26)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0280), received July 26, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4462. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Alexander Schleicher Segelflugzeugbau Model ASH 26E Sailplanes; Docket No. 99-CE-06 (7-26/7-26)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0282), received July 26, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4463. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Sikorsky Aircraft-Manufactured Model CH-54B Helicopters; Docket No. 97-SW-59 (7-22/7-26)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0281), received July 26, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4464. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Allied Signal Inc. ALF502R and ALF502R-3A Turbofan Engines; Docket No. 98-ANE-42 (7-19/7-26)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0283), received July 26, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4465. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled